



**More at Four moves to the Division of Child Development,  
becomes NC Prekindergarten Program (NCPK)**

North Carolina's General Assembly has adjourned after adopting a budget for 2011-2013. In the budget bill, the Division of Child Development (DCD) was designated as the lead agency for North Carolina's prekindergarten program (currently known as More at Four). The program is to be renamed **NC Prekindergarten Program (NCPK)**. These changes are effective July 1, 2011.

Throughout this legislative session, DCD supported Governor Perdue's desire to keep the More at Four prekindergarten program within the Department of Public Instruction. However, given that the House and Senate overrode her veto of the budget, DCD is prepared to preserve the integrity of high quality prekindergarten services in NC, including the current high quality program standards, teacher education standards, and local administration and eligibility determination.

We understand that there are many questions and concerns about this change. Many details must be worked out, but we want to share what we know and our initial plans. The directives as outlined in the special provisions of the budget include these changes:

- NCPK programs will be monitored annually by licensing consultants in the Regulatory Services Section at DCD.
- NCPK classrooms in public schools that are not currently licensed by DCD will have until July 1, 2012 to become licensed. The local DCD licensing consultant will be in contact with NCPK administrators in the near future to plan for licensure in unlicensed public school classrooms.
- 80% of parents will now be required to pay a fee for prekindergarten services. This will be consistent with the current parent fee structure for child care subsidy services. Military families and up to 20% of children that fall into the "at-risk" categories indicated in the current More at Four Program Standards will not be required to pay the parent fee. The parent fee structure for child care subsidy services can be found here:  
<http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dcd/ccs/man/ccsc8a1.pdf>  
*Please note that the parent fee is NOT collected by DCD or the NCPK contractor. It will be collected at the individual program/classroom/school level.*
- Each local NCPK contract administrator will continue to determine eligibility for the program. Verification of parent income is required, and further details about the income verification expectations will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

- NCPK program contract administrators will be entitled to funding to support administrative costs. DCD has an administrative cost cap of 4% of the total allocation. The remaining portion of the allocation *must* be used for direct services for prekindergarten children. Please remember that there will be cuts to the NCPK program due to the 20% cut as indicated in the biennium budget. DCD is currently working on the determination of county allocations and will send this information out as soon as possible.
- The NCPK program is required to participate in the Subsidized Early Education for Kids (SEEK) accounting system. DCD will work with local contract administrators to achieve this goal, but we are clear that this will not be in place by the start of the 2011/2012 school year.

The Division of Child Development considers all child care and prekindergarten providers to be our partners in serving the early care and education needs of children throughout North Carolina. We will work hard to ensure that strong communication systems are in place between NCPK contract administrators and DCD to maintain the integrity of the prekindergarten program.

If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Child Development at [webmasterdcd@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:webmasterdcd@dhhs.nc.gov).